

Claims

1. Method for decoding a data stream, the data stream containing a first and a second substream, the first substream (14) containing multimedia data packets and the second substream containing control information (10), wherein the multimedia data packets contain an indication of the time when to be presented, and wherein the multimedia data packets are decoded prior to the indicated presentation time, **characterized in** that
  - first decoded multimedia data packets are buffered at least until, after a further processing, they can be presented in due time; and
  - other multimedia data packets may be buffered, wherein the other multimedia data packets may replace or be appended to the first decoded multimedia data packets.
2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the control information defines whether the other multimedia data packets are appended to the first data packets or replace them.
3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the control information contains first, second and third control data,
  - the first control data (Length) defining the allocated buffer size,
  - the second control data (LoadMode) defining whether the other multimedia data packets are appended to the first packets or replace them, and
  - the third control data (StartLoadTime, StopLoadTime) defining a multimedia data packet to be buffered.

4. Method according to any of claims 1-3, wherein labels are attached to the buffered first and other multimedia data packets, and the packets may be accessed through their respective label.

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5. Method according to any of claims 1-4, wherein the labels attached to the buffered data packets contain an index relative to the latest received data packet.

10 6. Method according to any of claim 1-5, wherein the first substream contains audio data and the second substream contains a description of the presentation.

15 7. Method according to any of claims 1-6, wherein the data stream is compliant with the MPEG-4 standard.

20 8. Apparatus comprising means for decoding a data stream, the data stream containing a first and a second substream, the first substream (14) containing multimedia data packets and the second substream containing control information (10), wherein the multimedia data packets contain an indication of the time when to be presented, **characterized in that**

25 - first decoded multimedia data packets are buffered in a buffering means; and  
- other multimedia data packets are buffered in the same buffering means, wherein the other multimedia data packets may replace or be appended to the first decoded multimedia data packets, depending on the control information (10).

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9. Apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising means for attaching labels to the buffered first and other

multimedia data packets, and means for accessing, retrieving or deleting the packets through their respective label.

5 10. Apparatus according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the data stream is an MPEG-4 compliant data stream.